Guidelines to telecom operators

1544. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has issued guidelines to telecom operators to maintain transparency in the Telecom services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many telecom operators are violating these guidelines and misleading the subscribers; and

(d) if so, the number of cases so far reported to TRAI against such operators and the action taken by Government on those complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Transparency in the provision of telecom services and marketing thereof by the companies has been an issue of high priority to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). A number of measures have been taken by the TRAI since its inception to promote transparency in the offer of services in the interest of protecting consumers. These include the issue of Regulations, Directions, Orders and Advisories from time to time and this is an ongoing process.

(c) and (d) Compliance with the Regulations, Directions, Orders mandated by the TRAI are closely monitored. All tariff schemes implemented by the operators are reported to TRAI within seven days from the date of launch as per the provisions of Telecommunication Tariff Order. These tariff schemes/packages are subjected to scrutiny. Tariff Plans/Packages that are found to be potentially misleading and/or lacking in transparency are intervened and the service providers are asked to re-structure the same in line with the existing regulatory mandates. In addition, as and when instances of deviations from the prescribed guidelines on transparency are bought to the notice of TRAI by way of complaints, media reports etc., the matter is taken up with the concerned service providers for remedial action. The service providers have promptly responded to these interventions of the TRAI and have made necessary amends.

Grant-in-aid to Infopark, Cherthala

1545. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken any measures to provide grant-in-aid to Infopark, Cherthala to setup a working women hostel and day care centre; and

(b) if so, the steps that had been initiated in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) Department of Information Technology have no proposal to provide grant-in-aid to Infopark, Cherthala to set up a Working Women Hostel and day

care centre. However, as per the information from the State Government of Kerala, the proposal for providing Grant-in-aid of Rs.500 lakhs was forwarded to the Government of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development for placing before the project Sanctioning Committee for financial assistance vide letter No.10503/83/09/SWD dated 20.11.2009.

3G spectrum allocations

1546. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of investigations into the 3G spectrum allocations;

(b) whether it is a fact that Rs. 60,000 crore loss has been caused to the country's exchequer due to the malpractices in the spectrum allocation; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the action being taken against those involved in the scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) There is no investigation into 3G spectrum allocation.

(b) and (c) Since the 3G spectrum is yet to be auctioned, as per the guidelines dated 1st August 2008 and certain amendments dated IIth September 2008, BSNL/MTNL have been allotted 3G; spectrum on the condition that they have to pay the price equal to the highest bid in the respective service area.

However, on allegation of irregularities in the award of UAS Licenses to private companies, CBI registered a case on 21.10.2009 and conducted a search on 22.10.2009 in some offices of DOT and has taken custody of certain files relating to policy, issuance of UAS licenses and spectrum.

Number portability

1547. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision regarding number has been taken; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Sir, the Government has decided to introduce Mobile Number Portability in the country. Mobile Number Portability (MNP) allows subscribers to retain their existing telephone number in the same service area when they switch from one access service provider to another irrespective of mobile technology or from one technology to another of the same or any other access service provider. Necessary Licence Agreements for MNP Services have been signed in April 2009.